

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's
EXCITER



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

EmComm House Bill HR 2160

Article by Bob Conder K4RLC, NC ARRL SGL

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Act of 2009 bill that passed the US Senate last week, S1755, is headed back to the US House Committee on Energy & Commerce.

While it's great that it passed, the original EmComm bill HR 2160 has sat in this House committee since 04/29/2009 with no action. Don't know why. But this House committee will have to pass the bill before it can move to the House floor for a vote. And then for a reconciliation with the Senate version (but they are virtually identical in language).

Fortunately, NC has two Congressmen who are members of this House committee.

- Rep GK Butterfield from District 1 - it's a weird shaped district that covers Henderson, Ahoskie, Edenton, Greenville and parts of the counties where Little Washington and Havelock are.
- Rep Sue Myrick (you should know her as former mayor of Charlotte). Her district seems to be most of Union and Gaston counties (but none of Mecklenburg).

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Next RARS Meeting: January 5

7:30 PM: NC Veterinary Response Corps – Disaster Planning for Animals by Bruce Akers, DMV, Regional Veterinary Specialist.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

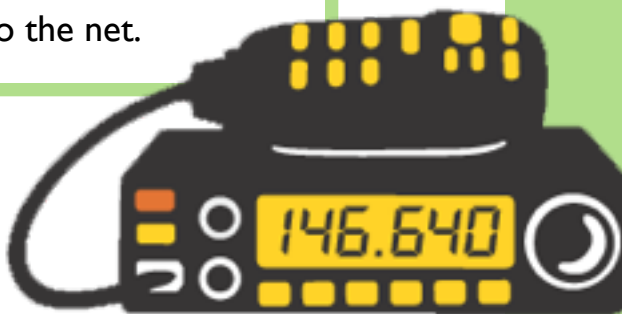
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

Upcoming Hamfests

- 1/9 Winston-Salem FirstFest
Winston-Salem, NC
<http://www.w4nc.com/>
- 1/9 TechFest 2009
Lawrenceville, GA
<http://www.gars.org>
- 1/15- Cowtown Hamfest
1/16 Fort Worth, TX
<http://www.cowtownhamfest.org>
- 1/29- Delta Division Convention
1/30 Jackson, MS
<http://www.msham.org/hamfest.php>
- 1/30 Winterfest 2010 - St. Louis Hamfest
Collinsville, IL
<http://slsrc.org/>

Hams Helping Hams

Sam Johnson NC4SJ has a newly installed mobile station in his Jeep consisting of an ICOM 7000 Transceiver with automatic tune control and screwdriver antenna. He would like to visit with a Ham operator who has an ICOM 7000 to receive some instruction.

Sam can be contacted at 743-2200 (office), 787-0603 (home), or
sjohnson@jhvgglaw.com.

January Birthdays

Bob	N4GEB	1/1
Howard	KI4GNB	1/3
Chuck	K4HF	1/4
Jerry	KE4TTS	1/4
John	N4YRD	1/8
Beth	KF4QMR	1/9
Jim	N4CAE	1/9
Paul	KE4TMN	1/10
Jim	KI4NQU	1/11
Roger	KI4NGL	1/15
Joyce	KJ4LKQ	1/18
Kerrell	W4KGL	1/21
Jim	KJ4BYN	1/22
Ken	AC4RD	1/23
Ken	KI4OTO	1/28
Alan	AB4OZ	1/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	1/30

New RARS Members

Hyeonu Lee KJ4QNV
Clarence Mayo, Jr. KI4WTT

November 2009 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 550
Traffic: 25/20
Minutes: 622
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 340
Minutes: 850
Sessions: 14

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As the ARRL State Government Liaison for North Carolina, I'm encouraging the constituent members to write to these Representatives.

Remember when writing to be respectful and brief, as we're asking them to do us a favor.

Passage of this bill will be great for Amateur Radio in many ways.

To find the email (and snailmail) address of your congressman, go to <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/>

A sample letter for Representative Butterfield or Myrick might read:

Dear Honorable _____,

As a constituent and supporter, I am writing to ask your support for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Act of 2009 HR 2160. As you know, the Senate version of this bill S1755, passed the Senate unanimously. The House version HR 2160 was originally introduced in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, of which you are a member. The bill acknowledges the contribution of FCC licensed amateur radio operators in providing essential communications (at no cost to the government and purely voluntarily) in times of natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, ice storms and floods. Upon passage, the Bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

Sincerely,

Your Name and Callsign

If you are not in Districts 1 or 9, please write your Congressman/woman, and ask that they co-sponsor and/or support HR 2160. Write as an individual citizen and not as a member of ARRL or a specific radio club. Feel free to note the disasters you have participated in. Edit the above letter as needed.

Ham Radio Class

A class to prepare interested folks for the **Technician Class License** (entry level) will be held this spring, by an instructor from the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS) and hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This 2-part class will prepare participants for the FCC exam. The exam will be administered at the end of the last class session.

The class is open to the public. Details follow:

Dates: Saturdays

March 13, 8 am – 12:30 pm

March 27, 8 am – 12:00 pm; Exam at 1:00 pm

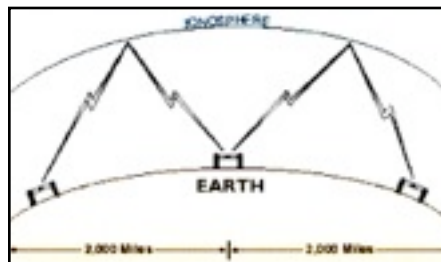
Location: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5060 Six Forks Rd
Raleigh, NC 27609

Instructor: Mike Murphy WA4BPJ, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Cost: \$25.00 for the class (includes manual) and \$15.00 for the exam fee

To learn more about ham radio, please visit the following website: www.arrl.org.

All participation is by pre-registration. **To register for this class, please contact RARS Education Director Virginia Enzor NC4VA at nc4va@nc.rr.com or (919) 469-8555 by Wednesday, March 10.** She will be happy to answer any questions about the class, licensing, ham radio or radios.



December 1, 2009 RARS General Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at the First Alliance Church, Buffaloe Road, Raleigh. There were 39 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by VP Karl W4CHX at 7:30 PM. He announced that President Selene KG4RMT was sick and would not be at the meeting tonight. In addition, Chuck K4HF was sick and would not be in attendance. Karl introduced our visitors, Marty W4MY, Peggy McRight XYL of Jim, Kay McEwen XYL of Ken KI4OTO, and Jim N0YAO.

Due to the delay in the publication of the EXCITER, the minutes of the November meeting were read by VP Karl. Following the reading, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes be accepted as read. Motion approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

- RARS monthly dinner will be held at the Golden Corral on Tuesday, December 15. All are welcome.
- There will not be a Board meeting in December.
- The next RARS meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.
- Those persons interested in an after meeting gathering, please gather after the meeting.

Hank K4HM did the installation of officers. The following were installed: Public Service John AI4RT, Public Information Gary KN4AQ, 2010 RARSFest John AI4RT, Exciter editor Courtney KI4HOS, Net Manager Mary KG4OQA, At-Large Director Don WA4AVU, At-Large Director Steve KJ4BX, At-Large Director Ken KI4OTO, FM Repeater Chair Gary KN4AQ, W4DW/W4RNC Trustee Jeff AC4OZ, ARRL Liaison Chuck K4HF, Education Director Virginia NC4VA, Web Master Hank K4HM, Hospitality Chair Mary Jo K4MJL, 2010 Field Day Chair Mike WA4BPJ, and VE Coordinators Liz and Joe White KO4CK & WA4GIR, respectively. For two year terms, President Karl W4CHX and Secretary Charles WB4DCM. To complete the remaining term of the current VP, Justin AJ4MJ.

Door prize drawings were won by Dick KD4ISC, Meme KE4NGM, and Richard KB4RZ.

Former VP now President Karl introduced Gary KN4AQ. Gary did an interesting rendition of "The Night Before Christmas". His was entitled "A Ham's Night Before Christmas". Gary then introduced the Encore Singers.

The Encore Singers then entertained us with Christmas music for almost an hour. The meeting concluded at 8:45 PM.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

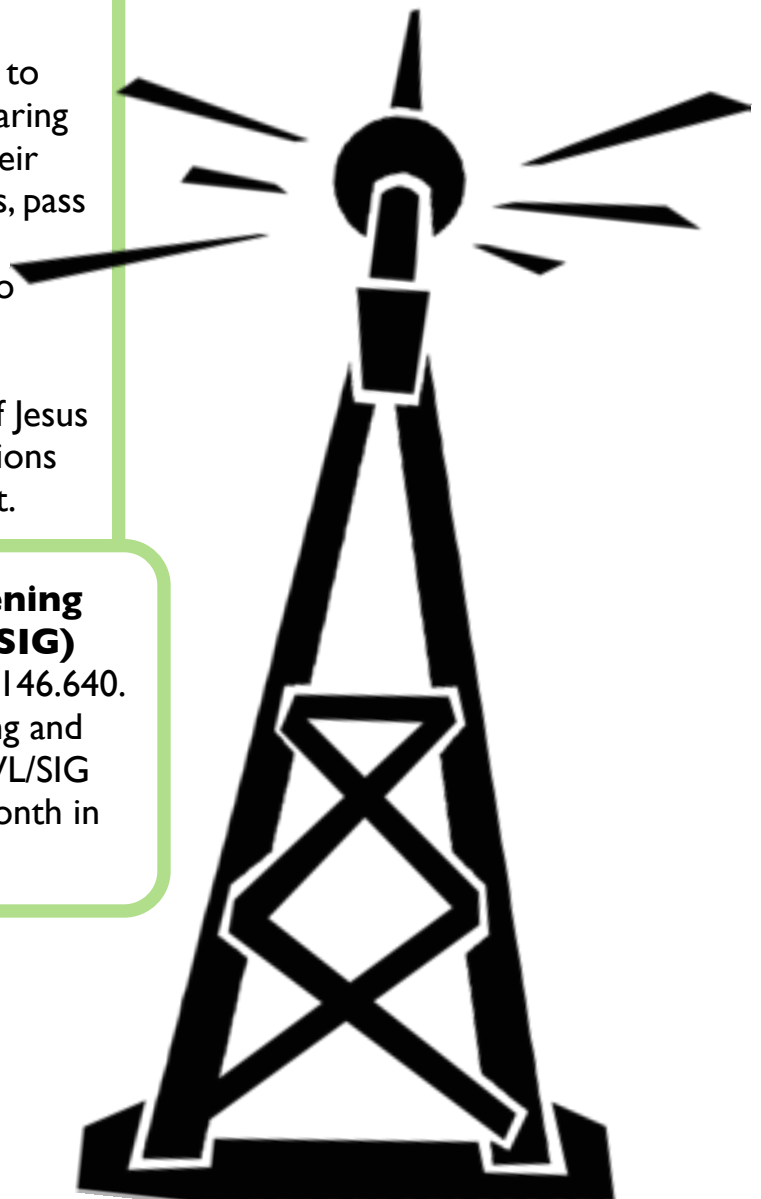
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Join the **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** on Monday evenings @ 9 PM on 146.640. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

January 12: "Radio Check Night" with CCS Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA. Visit the website for a list of the repeaters we'll be using.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

**Looking for the latest in
public service opportunities?
Visit www.rars.org to find
out about upcoming events
and sign up.**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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